

FACT SHEET

Tobacco-Related Morbidity and Mortality

Each year between 2000 and 2004, an estimated 700 Wyoming adults died prematurely from smoking-attributable illnesses such as respiratory diseases, cancers (primarily of the respiratory system), and cardiovascular disease.¹ This estimate does not include the effects of secondhand smoke or burns, and thus underestimates the true costs of smoking.

In the United States,

- Each year between 2000 and 2004, about 392,681 current and former smokers, aged 35 or older, died prematurely from the effects of their smoking.¹
- Between 2000 and 2004, the collective annual years of potential life lost for smokers was more than 5 million years.¹

Wyoming's smoking-attributable mortality rate and years of potential life lost are both greater than the national rates. Wyoming has the second highest (to Nevada) annual smoking-attributable mortality rate and average annual rate of years of potential life lost from smoking in the Rocky Mountain Region (Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming).¹

Rates of Average Annual Smoking-Attributable Mortality and Years of Potential Life Lost per 100,000 People, 2000–2004¹

Area	Mortality Rate	Years of Potential Life
Wyoming	283	3,631
Rocky Mountain Region	250	3,243
United States	249	3,471

Health Consequences of Exposure to Tobacco Smoke

The harmful health impacts of smoking are not unique to smokers. Including deaths attributable to smoking and secondhand smoke, smoking contributed to or caused an estimated minimum of 480,000 premature deaths each year between 2005 and 2009 from causes including:²

- Cancer (including lung and other cancers)
- Cardiovascular and metabolic coronary heart disease
- Cerebrovascular disease
- COPD
- Diabetes mellitus
- Influenza
- Pneumonia
- Pulmonary diseases
- Tuberculosis.

Health and Disease

In 2012, in Wyoming and the United States, smokers reported more mental distress and poorer health than nonsmokers.³ Chronic disease is among the most common and costly of health problems.⁴ In Wyoming, several chronic diseases are more common among adults who have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime than those who have not.⁵

Prevalence of Chronic Disease in Wyoming by Smoking Status, 2012⁵

Chronic Disease	Smoked ≥100 Cigarettes	Smoked <100 Cigarettes
High blood pressure, or hypertension	31%	23%
High cholesterol	26%	20%
Asthma	15%	11%
Diabetes	11%	6%
Heart Disease	11%	4%
Cancer (other than skin cancer)	9%	4%
Chronic lung disease	9%	2%

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FACT SHEET cont.

Wyoming Medical Costs

The estimated total healthcare costs of tobacco in Wyoming in 2010 were almost \$240 million. This estimate includes private and public costs. When combined with productivity loss, tobacco had a total economic cost of nearly \$690 million⁶

Substance Abuse Related Public and Private Health Care Costs in Wyoming, 2010, in Millions⁶

Category	Specialty Treatment	Medical Care	Total
Tobacco	\$1.22	\$238.41	\$239.63
Alcohol	\$17.98	\$188.32	\$206.30
Other drugs	\$10.73	\$135.42	\$146.16

Cleaning and Maintenance Costs

Relative to a smokefree workplace, cigarette smoke adds \$728 per 1,000 square feet to the cleaning and maintenance costs of office space and \$305 per 1,000 square feet to the cleaning and maintenance costs of industrial space. Each smoker increased the cost of building ventilation by \$84.⁷

Lost Productivity

When compared to alcohol and other drugs, tobacco is the most costly with regards to productivity lost due to hospitalization and mortality. For impaired productivity (including lowered performance while at work and absenteeism), tobacco use was the second-most costly of these three classes of substance. However, some data were not available at the state-level, and WYSAC did not include intangible costs (e.g., pain and suffering or the value of leisure or volunteer time).⁶

Productivity Losses in Wyoming, 2010, in Millions⁶

Category	Impaired Productivity	Hospitalization	Mortality
Alcohol	\$358.04	\$0.77	\$188.69
Tobacco	\$234.57	\$0.91	\$214.44
Other drugs	\$68.81	\$0.38	\$78.81

Smoking-Attributable Fires

In 2011, smoking materials were estimated to start 90,000 fires in the United States. These smoking-material started fires resulted in 540 civilian deaths, and cost over \$620 million in property damages.⁸

WYSAC Fact Sheet: Health and Economic Costs of Smoking

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Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center
University of Wyoming • Department 3925
1000 East University Avenue • Laramie WY 82071
wysac@uwyo.edu • www.wysac.uwyo.edu
(307) 766-2189 • Fax: (307) 766-2759

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